IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all previous claims in favor of the following new slate of claims, Claims 22 - 38.

22. A candle comprising, in combination, a fuel element comprising a solid fuel, a consumable wick at which said fuel may be burned to produce heat, a heat conductive container for said fuel element whereby said heat may be transported so as to melt said solid fuel, wherein said container is configured so as to cause the flow of melted fuel to said wick, and said heat conductive container further comprises a heat conductive element selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, by which heat is conducted to said container from a flame upon said wick.

23. The candle of Claim 22, wherein said fuel is selected from the group consisting of gels and solid waxes.

24. The candle of Claim 23, wherein said fuel is candle wax, and said container is a concave melting plate.

25. The candle of Claim 22, wherein said heat conductive element cooperatively engages said fuel element.

26. The candle of Claim 25, wherein said fuel element comprises a fuel selected from the group consisting of paraffin, beeswax, montan wax, carnauba wax, microcrystalline wax, stearic acid, fatty alcohols, fatty acids, fatty esters, and gels incorporating such fuels.

27. A melting plate candle comprising, in combination, a meltable solid fuel, a consumable wick, a heat conductive base upon which said fuel rests, and a heat conductive element, selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, by which heat is conducted to said base from a flame upon said wick, whereby a pool of heated liquid fuel is created, wherein said heat conductive base is configured so as to cause the flow of said heated liquid fuel to said wick for combustion, and said base and said element are configured so as to cooperatively engage said fuel.

28. The candle of Claim 27, wherein said fuel is selected from the group consisting of gels and solid waxes.

29. The candle of Claim 28, wherein said heat conductive element is a lobe.

30. The candle of Claim 28, wherein said heat conductive element is a wick holder with fins.

31. A melting plate candle comprising a replaceable fuel element and consumable wick, a fuel holder comprising a heat conductive melting plate, and at least one heat conductive element to collect heat from a flame at said wick and conduct said heat to said melting plate to thereby melt said fuel and form a pool of liquid fuel on the surface of said melting plate, wherein said fuel holder is configured to position and engage said fuel on said melting plate for rapid melting, said heat conductive elements are selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, and said melting plate is shaped so as to cause said pool of liquid fuel to flow to said wick, and the temperature of said pool of liquid fuel exceeds a temperature of about 180° F. at a point about 10 mm from said wick, and about 160° F at a point about 20 mm from said wick.

32. The candle of Claim 31, wherein said heat conductive element is a lobe.

38. The candle of Claim 31, wherein said heat conductive element is a wick holder with fins.

34. A solid replacement element for a melting plate candle fuel holder, said element comprising a consumable wick and a solid fuel selected from the group consisting of gels and candle waxes, configured to cooperatively engage said fuel holder, and having a starter bump on the top surface in close proximity but not in contact with said wick for ease of lighting said wick.

35. A solid wickless replacement element for a melting plate candle fuel holder, said element comprising a solid fuel selected from the group consisting of gels and candle waxes, configured to cooperatively engage said fuel holder, and having a starter bump positioned so as to be in close proximity but not in contact with a consumable wick located within said fuel holder.

36. A melting plate fuel holder comprising a heat conductive container for a fuel element comprising a consumable wick, said container configured so as to engage and melt said solid fuel element and to cause the flow of melted fuel to said wick, said heat conductive container further comprising conductive elements selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, by which heat is conducted to said container from a flame upon said wick.

37. A melting plate fuel holder comprising a heat conductive container having affixed thereto a consumable wick, said container configured so as to cause the flow of liquid contents to the wick and to engage and melt a solid fuel element.

38. A fuel holder as set forth in Claim 37, wherein said melting plate further comprises a heat conductive element selected from the group consisting of lobes, fins, wick holders, and combinations thereof.